

EDL 630 COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION

Assignments 1-4: Article Critiques

Submit four (4) critiques of the required journal articles. **The critique SHOULD NOT include a summary of the article.** A summary merely reports what the text said; that is, it answers only the question, "What did the author say?" A critique, on the other hand, analyzes, interprets, and evaluates the text. A critique does not necessarily have to criticize the piece in a negative sense. Your reaction to the text may be largely positive, negative, or a combination of the two. It is important to explain why you respond to the text in a certain way. (Each critique is 15% of final grade; see rubric on next page)

Step 1. Analyze

- What is the author's main point?
- What is the author's purpose?
- Who is the author's intended audience?
- What arguments does the author use to support the main point?
- What evidence does the author present to support the arguments?
- What are the author's underlying assumptions or biases?

Step 2. Evaluate the text

- Is the argument logical?
- Is the text well-organized, clear, and easy to read?
- Are the author's facts accurate?
- Have important terms been clearly defined?
- Is there sufficient evidence for the arguments?
- Do the arguments support the main point?
- Is the text appropriate for the intended audience?
- Does the text present and refute opposing points of view?
- Does the text help you understand the subject?
- Are there any words or sentences that evoke a strong response from you? What are those words or sentences? What is your reaction?
- What is the origin of your reaction to this topic? When or where did you first learn about it? Can you think of people, articles, or discussions that have influenced your views? How might these be compared or contrasted to this text?
- What questions or observations does this article suggest? That is, what does the article make you think about?

Step 3. Plan and write your critique

- You will first need to identify and explain the author's ideas. Include specific passages that support your description of the author's point of view.
- Offer your own opinion. Explain what you think about the argument. Describe several points with which you agree or disagree.
- For each of the points you mention, include specific passages from the text (you may summarize, quote, or paraphrase) that provide evidence for your point of view.
- Explain how the passages support your opinion.

	4	3	2	1
Content & Ideas	All elements of the subject matter are covered. Writing contains insightful ideas that are well supported with original and well founded details.	There is comprehensive coverage of the subject matter. Writing contains thoughtful ideas that are supported by appropriate details.	Essential aspects of subject matter are covered. Some relevant ideas are supported by appropriate details	The subject matter is not covered, demonstrates an limited understanding of topic. Major deficiency of appropriate ideas and details.
Communication & Style	Text has strong, concise and engaging. sense of voice Sentence structure and vocabulary enhances the reader's understanding and appreciation.	Text is clear and comprehensible. -Developed voice in the writing Variety of sentence structures and appropriate vocabulary are used.	Text is usually comprehensible, requiring some interpretation on the part of the reader. Voice is developing but is still inconsistent. Limited variety of sentence structure and word choice.	Text is incomprehensible and requires frequent interpretation on the part of the reader. Limited sense of voice Sentence structure is unvaried, limited and/or questionable word choice.
Organization	Sophisticated organization enhances purpose of writing. Engaging introduction and conclusion. Thoughtful and effective use of connections and transitions.	Structure is clear and well organized. Effective introduction and conclusion. Connections are logical and sustain the writer's purpose.	Organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text. Mechanical introduction and conclusion. Some connections are not in a logical or expected order. Writing stays on topic with a few deviations from the main idea.	Shows no clear overall structure and organization. The introduction and conclusion are lacking. Connections are confusing or not present. Writing does not stay on topic.
Conventions	Absence of errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation is impressive.	Minor errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation do not detract significantly from the work.	Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation are noticeable and detract from the work.	Numerous errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation make the work more difficult to read.